

THE CLAIMS (CLAIM 17 AMENDED)

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (cancelled)
12. (cancelled)
13. (cancelled)

14. (original) A reinforced corner post assembly comprising:

a longitudinal corner post having an outer wall and an inner wall joined at opposing ends to form a tube having a hollow interior, a longitudinal groove being integrally formed in one of the walls, the groove including opposing sides extending from the wall along opposing edges; and

a reinforcing tube disposed within the longitudinal groove, the reinforcing tube having an outer diameter greater than the distance from one edge to the opposite edge.

15. (original) The assembly of claim 14 wherein the outer wall has an exterior side facing away from the hollow interior, and

the groove is integrally formed in the exterior side of the outer wall.

16. (original) A reinforced corner post assembly comprising:

a longitudinal corner post formed from a single sheet of material wound into a hollow tube having two or more layers, the corner post having an outer wall and an inner wall joined at opposing ends and a longitudinal slot integrally formed in one of the walls between opposing layers; and

a reinforcing tube disposed within the longitudinal slot.

17. (currently amended) A reinforced corner post assembly comprising:

a longitudinal corner post having an outer wall and an inner wall joined at opposing ends to form a hollow tube; and

one or more separate, insertable reinforcing tubes having a circular cross-section and disposed longitudinally within the interior of the corner post, said tubes being collinear with the corner post and substantially the same length as the corner post;

wherein the outside diameter of the reinforcing tubes is not less than the distance between the outer and inner walls of the corner post, thereby causing the reinforcing tubes to be held in place by the outer and inner walls.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (previously amended) A reinforced support post assembly comprising:

an axial load bearing longitudinal support post having an outer wall and an inner wall joined at opposing ends to form a hollow tube having rounded ends; and

one or more separate, insertable reinforcing tubes disposed longitudinally within the interior of the support post, said tubes being collinear with the support post and substantially the same length as the support post;

wherein the support post comprises at least one inwardly extending bead integrally formed in the outer wall of the support post, at least one of the one or more reinforcing tubes being wedged between the bead and one of the rounded ends of the support post.

25. (previously presented) A reinforced corner post assembly comprising:

a longitudinal corner post manufactured from a single sheet of material that is wetted with adhesive, wound into a tube, formed and dried; and

one or more separate, insertable reinforcing tubes inserted into the hollow interior during manufacture of the corner post while the corner post is wet;

whereupon the corner post shrinks slightly in the horizontal plane during drying, causing the reinforcing tubes to be captured and held tightly in place within the corner post.